

TELL THE CODE COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE NEW ENERGY CODE!!

An improved Washington Energy Code should have been implemented July 1st. It was adopted by the State Building Code Council, but has been delayed and is under attack by opponents who have distorted the costs and ignored the benefits of better energy standards.

The Code Council is now proposing implementation starting on Jan. 1, 2011. The Code Council is accepting public comment—both written and oral—on when to begin implementation of the new code.

By way of background, the new standard improves on the current code by cutting energy waste in new homes by between 6% and 26%, depending on size and climate zone, and in commercial buildings by an average of 17%. The new code was set for implementation on July 1, 2010, before the delay.

Your input in this decision is important. **We are writing to ask you to urge the Code Council to implement the code no later than Jan. 1, 2011.**

- **Written comments are due to the State Building Code Council by September 24, 2010:** Attn: John Cochran, Council Chair, P.O. Box 41014, Olympia, WA 98504-1014, e-mail krista.braaksma@ga.wa.gov, fax (360) 586-9383.
- **Attend a public hearing:** Spokane City Council Chambers, West 808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, on **September 10, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.**; and at the Senate Hearing Room 2, Cherberg Building, Capitol Campus, Olympia, on **September 24, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.**

The public comment period and hearings relate only to the proposed effective date of January 1, 2011 - not the technical components, costs or other issues associated with the code.

Suggested points that could be included in your comments or testimony:

- The building industry anticipates changes to the code every three years and was expecting and prepared for the July 1, 2010 implementation date. There is no substantial reason for further delay. In fact, the economic analyses adopted by the SBCC show that adopting the code is in the economic interests of the state.

- The longer the delay, the more energy we will waste with buildings that don't incorporate current, cost effective energy saving design and technologies. Buildings built today will be with us for 50 to 100 years. Once a new building is constructed, it's more expensive and difficult to achieve the energy efficiency that can be built in at the time of construction. It is an opportunity we can't afford to lose.
- The region is counting on the energy savings from Washington's energy code to meet the targets set in the Northwest Power and Conservation Council 6th Plan.¹ The longer the delay - the more the savings have to be made up somewhere else.
- The cycle of energy code changes every three years. Further delay with the 2009 code compresses the next cycle so that builders, code officials, engineers and vendors will be faced with another round of changes within two years.
- Substantial investments in training code officials, builders, engineers, architects and others on the 2009 code have already been made; the longer the delay, the less effective that training investment.

Thanks!

¹ Every five years, the Northwest's official power planning agency – the Northwest Power and Conservation Council – conducts a fresh assessment of the region's long-term electricity needs and issues a blueprint for meeting them.